

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01115 01 OF 02 280045Z
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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01115

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652:N/A
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF MARCH 26-27 MEDIA REACTION.

2. RHODESIA. WASHPOST (OTTAWAY) REPORTED FROM DAR ES SALAAM MARCH 27 THAT FRONTLINE LEADERS "WARNED THE U.S. AND BRITAIN YESTERDAY THAT THE TIME HAD COME TO FULLY SUPPORT THEIR OWN ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR RHODESIA'S FUTURE OR PUBLICLY RENOUNCE THEM." THE AFRICAN LEADERS, ARTICLE SAID, CALLED FOR INTENSIFICATION OF THE "JUST ARMED STRUGGLE FOR THE LIBERATION OF ZIMBABWE"... NYTIMES (KAUFMAN) HAD SIMILAR STORY FROM DAR ON MARCH 27 AND NOTED THAT FRONTLINE URGED U.S. AND BRITAIN TO CONVENE A MEETING TO FOLLOW UP MALTA TALKS...FROM SALISBURY, REUTERS MARCH 26 REPORTED THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA, ASKED TO COMMENT ON DAR COMMUNIQUE, SAID: "AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID WHICH WILL STOP US FROM CARRYING ON ALONG THE COURSE WE HAVE TAKEN." MUZOREWA ALSO QUOTED AS UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 USUN N 01115 01 OF 02 280045Z

SAYING AMB. YOUNG HAD BEEN "TERRIBLY BRAINWASHED BY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND THE SO-CALLED FRONTLINE STATES"... A.P. (JEFFRIES) DISPATCH MARCH 26 QUOTED AMB. YOUNG AS SAYING U.S. AND BRITAIN WILL "CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT...THE PIECES WILL EITHER FALL INTO PLACE BEFORE TOO LONG OR THE WHOLE THING WILL FALL APART" ...FROM TIME MAGAZINE ISSUE OF APRIL 3: "YOUNG WAS IN

AFRICA ON A ELEVENTH HOUR MISSION TO TRY TO PERSUADE ALL OF RHODESIA'S NATIONALIST FACTIONS TO SIT DOWN FOR ONE LAST TRY AT A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT. THE ADMINISTRATION FEARS THAT IF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS EXCLUDED FROM ANY MAJORITY-RULE AGREEMENT, THE FIGHTING WILL ENGULF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AS WELL AND CREATE AN OPENING FOR SOVIET, CUBAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT... THE BLACK MEMBERS OF THE NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL SUGGESTED THAT THERE COULD BE A 'LEADERSHIP ROLE' IN THE NEW RHODESIAN REGIME FOR NKOMO AND MUGABE IF THEY AGREED TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY IN PEACE. THE CHANCES FOR THAT SEEM REMOTE, GIVEN THE PATRIOTIC FRONTS PAST DENUNCIATIONS OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT."

3. SOUTH AFRICA. CSMONITOR (GOODWIN) MARCH 27 RAN STORY FROM JOHANNESBURG SAYING: "ANOTHER BLACK VS. GOVERNMENT CONFRONTATION IS LOOMING JUST AHEAD IN SOUTH AFRICA. AND THE WHITE LEADERSHIP APPEARS LIKELY TO LOSE ANOTHER ROUND IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO APPLY ITS OWN FORMULA OF GOVERNMENT TO THE BLACK TOWNSHIP OF SOWETO...THE CRUNCH POINT IS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 28, WHEN THE NAMES OF CANDIDATES FOR THE GOVERNMENT-DEvised COMMUNITY COUNCILS FOR THE HUGE TOWNSHIP ARE TO BE REGISTERED. IN AN EFFORT TO GET BLACK SUPPORT FOR THE COUNCILS...THE GOVERNMENT HAS RELEASED THREE MORE OF SOWETO'S LEADERS. BUT THE BLACKS WHO COUNT MOST IN SOWETO, LED BY DR. NTHATO MOTLANA...HAVE SAID UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 USUN N 01115 01 OF 02 280045Z

THE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH IN MEETING THEIR DEMANDS," WHICH INCLUDE COMPLETE AUTONOMY FOR SOWETO AND RELEASE OF PEOPLE DETAINED LAST OCT. 19.

4. MIDEAST. NYTIMES REPORTED FROM CAIRO MARCH 26 THAT EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT WAS PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH PEACE EFFORTS, "BUT CAIRO INDICATED THAT IT DID NOT EXPECT ANY PROGRESS ON PEACE ISSUES UNTIL THERE WAS A CHANGE OF POLICY IN ISRAEL...CAIRO OFFICIALS ASSERTED THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED FROM ISRAEL WAS NOT A DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT BUT A DIFFERENT ATTITUDE. BUT THEIR EVALUATION LEFT LITTLE DOUBT THAT CAIRO WOULD FEEL MORE HOPEFUL ABOUT RESUMING NEGOTIATIONS IF BEGIN WAS OUT OF THE WAY"...FROM JERUSALEM, WASHPOST MARCH 27 REPORTED ISRAELI CABINET'S UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR BEGIN, "INDICATING THAT THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO COMPROMISE WITH THE VIEWS OUTLINED LAST WEEK AT THE WHITE HOUSE. WHILE IT IS CLEAR THAT BEGIN'S MISSION TO WASHINGTON ENDED IN FAILURE AND THAT THE CONFRONTATION WITH THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS GOING TO CAUSE BEGIN SERIOUS POLITICAL TROUBLE HERE, IT DOES NOT SEEM AT THIS TIME THAT THE FORCES OPPOSED TO HIM ARE EITHER STRONG ENOUGH OR ORGANIZED ENOUGH TO BRING DOWN

THE GOVERNMENT"... MARK SIEGEL IN NYTIMES OP ED PIECE MARCH 27 WRITES: "...FOR ISRAEL TO NEGOTIATE, IT MUST PROCEED FROM A BASE OF SECURITY. THEREFORE, WHEN THE U.S. TELLS THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL IT MUST RELINQUISH TERRITORY, THREATENS TO ALTER PAST COMMITMENTS UNDER WHICH THE ISRAELIS MADE CONCESSIONS IN RETURN FOR GUARANTEES OF SECURITY, AND SIMULTANEOUSLY SEEKS TO ARM ARAB ADVERSARIES WITH SOPHISTICATED WARPLANES, ISRAEL'S PSYCHIC, MILITARY AND TERRITORIAL FENCE OF SECURITY IS UNDERMINED"...TOM WICKER IN TIMES SAYS: "MR. BEGIN APPARENTLY IS RETURNING TO HEATED POLITICAL DEBATE IN ISRAEL....AS THAT DEBATE PROCEEDS, THE U.S. WOULD DO WELL TO KEEP HANDS OFF, IN FACT AS WELL AS IN APPEARANCE.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01115 02 OF 02 280052Z
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UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01115

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S VIEWS HAVE BEEN MADE UNMISTAKABLY CLEAR TO MR. BEGIN: CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT FOR THOSE VIEWS APPEARS TO EXIST IN ISRAEL; AND THE NEXT NECESSARY STEP ON THE LONG ROAD TO PEACE IS FOR THAT NATION'S DEMOCRACY TO DEAL WITH ITS OWN INTERNAL DIVISIONS, WITHOUT AMERICAN PRESCRIPTION OR INTERVENTION" ABBA EBAN HAS WRITTEN IN JERUSALEM POST: "IF THE PEACE EFFORT FAILS THROUGH ARAB INSISTENCE ON TOTAL WITHDRAWAL -- FROM THE WESTERN WALL OF JERUSALEM ONWARD -- WE SHALL BE SUSTAINED BY DOMESTIC UNITY AND A MEASURE OF INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING. IF IT FAILS THROUGH AN ISRAELI INSISTENCE ON EXCLUDING THE OPTION OF TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE WEST OF THE JORDAN, WE SHALL

FACE OUR CRISIS DIVIDED AND ALONE. THE SEARCHLIGHT COMES BACK IN THE LAST RESORT TO PRIME MINISTER BEGIN. HE HAS TO GIVE SOMETHING UP: EITHER PART OF THE LIKUD PLATFORM OR HIS HOPE OF LEADING OUR NATION TOWARD ITS CHERISHED PEACE."

5. UN TROOPS. NYTIMES (TELTSCH) ANALYSIS MARCH 26 SAID:
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PAGE 02 USUN N 01115 02 OF 02 280052Z

"U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCES CANNOT MAKE PEACE, THEY CAN ONLY KEEP IT SO LONG AS THE COMBATANTS LET THEM. AT BEST, THEY PROVIDE A BREATHING SPACE FOR RESOLUTION OF THE DIFFERENCES THAT CAUSED THE FIGHTING; AT WORST, AN EXCUSE FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD TO FORGET THE CRISIS UNTIL THE SHOOTING STARTS ALL OVER AGAIN"....CSMONITOR EDITORIAL MARCH 27 SAYS "THE U.N. CAN ACT FAST TO DO ITS PART IN KEEPING THE PEACE. THIS VALUABLE REMINDER COMES FROM THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. ONCE THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAD MOVED SWIFTLY ON THE U.S. - SPONSORED RESOLUTION FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND RESTORATION OF LEBANESE AUTHORITY, THE U.N. TROOPS WERE QUICKLY ON THEIR WAY....IT WILL TAKE SKILLED TROOPS AND SKILLED LEADERSHIP TO MEET THE DAILY DEMANDS OF PEACEKEEPING...BUT, NO MATTER HOW SKILLED THE U.N. FORCES, THEY WILL HAVE TO HAVE THE GOOD-FAITH BACKING OF ALL THE POWERS INVOLVED IF PEACEKEEPING IS TO TURN INTO PEACEMAKING AND FINALLY PEACE ITSELF." LEONARD

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